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DE RUEHDS #0939 0871253

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5343

INFO RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 000939

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DEPT FOR AF/FO, AF/RSA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/28/2012

TAGS: PREL MOPS AU

SUBJECT: CHINESE CHARGE ZHANG YUEBANG MARCH 23 MEETING WITH
USAU AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS DARFUR

Classified By: AMBASSADOR CINDY COURVILLE, REASONS 1.4(B) AND (D)

¶1. (C) Summary: At his request, Chinese Charge Zhang
Yuebang called on Ambassador Courville on March 23 to discuss
Darfur and hear Ambassador's views. He thought the Darfur
situation was at critical point -- it could improve or
deteriorate badly. Zhang was primarily interested in drawing
us out on issues. End Summary.

¶2. (C) Discussion: Zhang mentioned that China had been
approached in New York to participate in Darfur peace
efforts; PRC had made no decision yet. AMB pressed him that
China should use its influence with Bashir to get him to
cooperate with UN and AU, and to help with AU efforts in
Somalia.

(C) Zhang raised the argument that the rebels and their
divisions were responsible for some of the problems.
Ambassador agreed, but said that the Sudanese, as a
government, bear greater responsibility. They should end
their support for the Janjaweed and cooperate to implement
the HSP and hybrid phases of peacekeeping. In the meanwhile,
those who are working to end rebel divisions should
coordinate their efforts.

(C) Zhang referred to the objections Bashir raised in
his March 6 letter regarding nonconformity of the HSP plan
with the DPA, and the issue of who commands. Ambassador
dismissed the first as a real problem that should impede
implementation. USAU Mil Rep pointed out that there had been
agreement between UN and the AU that the AMIS Force Commander
will be an African.

(C) Zhang briefly raised the issue of Somalia, noting
it was dangerous. Ambassador agreed that a collapsing
Somalia would endanger the region, and urged China to help
through providing humanitarian aid and/or supporting
peacekeeping efforts. Zhang said that China was considering
how to provide help.

(C) Zhang and Ambassador Courville agreed to stay in
touch and exchange views periodically.

¶3. (C) Way Forward: Ambassador Courville recommended that
China:

-- Urge Bashir to accept the HSP and hybrid force

-- Use its influence to reassure and persuade Bashir to
choose the best course

-- Consider participating in some way to support the

peacekeeping efforts in Darfur

COURVILLE
YAMAMOTO